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## BOOK REVIEWS

*Street Railway Reports* (Annotated). Vol. VII, pp. 1022. Matthew Bender & Company. Albany, N. Y.

A new volume is added to this valuable compilation of Federal and State decisions, covering in a thorough manner important cases in which street railways and electric railways generally are involved. It contains an index to the special notes in the entire set and has an adequate general index.

P. R. B.

*Guide to the Law and Legal Literature of Germany.* By Edwin M. Borchard, Law Librarian, Library of Congress. Washington. Government Printing Office. 1912. pp. 226.

The Guide under review was intended to fill the need that has grown up with the industrial revolution and the increase of international commerce, of an explanatory treatise on the legal situation in the German Empire—the start in a series of guides to foreign law. The title of the work is somewhat misleading; for in scope it is not a guide to German Law, as such, but is rather a history and a compilation of German legal bibliography.

The author however has succeeded in what he has specially undertaken. He has compiled a very complete digest of the German codes, devoting an interesting section to the great Civil Code, which was compiled in 1877 along with the Federal Code of Criminal Procedure, a Federal Judiciary Act, and a Bankruptcy Act. Dr. Fisher authoritatively states, with reference to the Civil Code:

“Never yet has so much first rate brain power been put into an act of legislation.”

The commercial and industrial codes of the empire are in turn considered. Withal, Mr. Borchard shows plainly the German legal situation, where decisions as precedents play a very small part, and where statutes and customs, both national and local, serve as high signs for the investigator.

The practical value of the volume lies in its copious citations and references to standard works on German Law. A valuable glossary of German legal terms is provided for use with the index.

F. R.

*Handbook of the Law of Banks and Banking.* By Francis B. Tiffany. St. Paul. West Publishing Company. 1912. pp. 669.

While this book is one of the Hornbook series, it is designed for the use of practitioners rather than law students. With this view in mind the author has covered such practical questions as are compatible with a brief presentation of the subject. The notes contain very full citation of cases, and are supplemented by references to the Century and Decennial (Key-Number) Digests. By these references one who uses the book will be able to find additional cases on the point to which the note refers, and will also have at his command cases which may be tried later and found in the digests.

In treating the subject the author has limited himself largely to the law governing the business transacted by banks and bankers. He has entered the general field of corporation law only where the law of banking corporations seemed to require special attention.

The brief compass of the book would not allow a discussion of the many varying provisions of state statutes on the subject of banking. However, the field of national banks has been covered, as well as Federal statutes relating to the law of banking. In an appendix are printed the National Bank Act, together with other provisions of the Federal statutes on this subject. This appendix includes historical and explanatory notes by the editorial staff of the publishers.

The Negotiable Instruments Act, insofar as it relates to the banking business, is referred to, and the author points out the changes introduced by it into the law concerning checks and other negotiable instruments.

In scope of subject and method of treatment the book is an admirable one, and should be of great value to the practitioner as a reference book. At the same time, as a compact presentation